
ABB in China

ABB is a pioneering technology leader with a comprehensive offering for digital industries. With a history of innovation spanning more than 130 years, ABB is today a leader in digital industries with four customer-focused, globally leading businesses: Electrification, Industrial Automation, Motion, and Robotics & Discrete Automation, supported by its common ABB Ability™ digital platform.

ABB was formed in 1988, when the Swedish Asea and the Swiss BBC Brown Boveri merged under the name of ABB. Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, ABB operates in more than 100 countries with about 147,000 employees.

ABB's relationship with China dates back to 1907, when it delivered a steam boiler to the country. After decades of fast development, ABB today has a full range of business activities in China, including R&D, manufacturing, sales and services, 44 local companies with nearly 20,000 employees located in over 130 cities. China is ABB's second-largest market worldwide with more than 90% of sales from locally-made products, solutions and services. ABB has invested more than US\$2.4 billion in China since 1992.

Digitalization-led transformation

Building on an installed base of more than 70 million connected devices and 70,000 digital control systems, ABB is using its profound domain expertise and experience to work with customers and partners to realize full potential as digital champion. Through divestment of Power Grids, ABB will further strengthen its focus in digital industries and provide tailored digital solutions based on ABB's common digital platform ABB Ability™, driving enhanced customer value.

Since ABB Ability™ was launched in China market in 2017, ABB has delivered industry-leading digital solutions for local customers of many industries, including oil, gas and petrochemicals, automobiles, machinery, metals, power grids, transport and infrastructure, helping to integrate and analyze their data safely and efficiently to provide deep insights, reduce cost, improve performance and competitiveness.

Rooted in China with a global perspective

Following the long-term commitment of "in China, for China and the world", ABB has continuously invested in China, further optimizing its business footprint, and driving the localization of the whole value chain. ABB leads the ranking with nine of its local companies on the list of "2019 China Top 100 Electric Companies", and several local ABB companies also won the "Electric Product Innovation Prize" and the "Electric Industrial Leader Award".

In October 2018, ABB announced a US\$150 million investment in a new robotics "factory of the future" in Shanghai which will employ ABB's digital and AI solutions, to support the development of high-end manufacturing in China. In November 2018, ABB opened a major innovation and manufacturing hub in Xiamen to integrate its local businesses, representing a US\$300 million investment.



The Belt and Road initiative has created vast new opportunities for both Chinese and foreign companies. With a business network covering some 100 countries around the world, and abundant overseas project management experience, ABB has actively supported Chinese enterprises to explore overseas market, and has provided more than 400 Chinese customers with consultancy, design, engineering and services in more than 70 countries and regions.

Local innovation accelerates value creation

As a pioneering technology leader, ABB regards innovation as a key to keep its long-term competitive edge. In China, ABB has continuously improved its local R&D capabilities through investment and R&D footprint optimization. Today, ABB China has about 2,000 professionals dedicated to local innovation, maintaining the global leadership in such fields as insulation materials, small-piece assembly robot, hybrid HVDC and renewable integration technology. In 2018, the local R&D team filed 29% more patents than in the previous year.

The ABB China R&D team has led or participated in the research and development of smart sensors, 1100 kV UHVDC transformer, 800 kV GIS, new type of ring main unit (RMU), dual-arm robot YuMi®, i-Jia smart home system, Terra 63Z DC fast charger and HDS water-cooled AC synchronous permanent magnet servo motor in recent years. ABB is also actively driving technical innovation by strengthening cooperation with universities and supporting talent cultivation.

ABB: a responsible corporate citizen

In China, ABB has participated in many key national projects and is also deeply engaged in local communities. ABB Group Executives have been members of mayor's or governor's advisors in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Guangdong, proposing forward-looking advices to support China's economic transformation and sustainable growth.

ABB promotes the cultivation of local talents by holding the annual Innovation Contest and participates in various charity activities, such as planting trees, volunteering in communities, caring for senior citizens and hosting electrical safety seminars. ABB has donated about RMB16 million accumulatively via ABB-New Great Wall Fund, benefiting 4,300 students from 46 universities and colleges.

ABB was named #8 in Fortune magazine's "Change the World" rankings in 2018 for the company's efforts to speed up adoption of clean-energy electric transportation. Today, ABB has unrivalled expertise in electrification and electric-vehicle charging solutions with more than 10,000 fast-charging points in over 70 countries worldwide. As title partner of ABB Formula E, the fully electric international FIA motorsport class, ABB is pushing the boundaries of e-mobility to contribute to a sustainable future. In March 2019, two races of ABB Formula E 2018/2019 season have been successfully held in Hong Kong and Sanya of China.

Milestones in China

- 1974 Set up first China office in Hong Kong
- 1979 Set up permanent office in Beijing
- 1992 Established first manufacturing joint venture in China
- 1994 Moved ABB China's headquarters to Beijing
- 1995 Established holding company – ABB (China) Ltd.
- 2004 Won major Three Gorges orders
- 2005 Set up global research centers in Beijing & Shanghai
- 2006 Moved global Robotics center to China
- 2006-2008 Contributed to over 30 Beijing Olympics projects
- 2009 Launched first locally developed robot – IRB 120
- 2010 Started e-commerce business in China
- 2011 Set up global marine propulsion system base in Shanghai
- 2012 Launched ABB University Innovation Contest
- 2014 Announced investment of RMB2 billion to set up an industrial hub in Xiamen
- 2016 Applied 1,100 kV UHVDC technology in China
- 2017 Launched industry-leading digital solutions offering ABB Ability™ in China
- 2018 Announced investment to build ABB's most advanced robotics factory in Shanghai

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